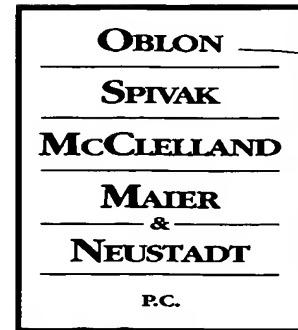




Docket No.: 250882US25CONT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/675,816
Applicants: Johann J. NEISZ, et al.
Filing Date: September 30, 2003
For: SURGICAL ARTICLES AND METHODS
Group Art Unit: 3736
Examiner: Gilbert, S.

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

PTO-1449 W/237 REFERENCES AND STATEMENT OF RELEVANCY

Our credit card payment form in the amount of \$. 0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Charles L. Gholz

Registration No. 26,395

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22850

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W. Todd Baker

Registration No. 45,265

Docket No. 250882US25CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Johann J NEISZ, et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/675,816

GAU: 3736

FILED: September 30, 2003

EXAMINER: GILBERT

FOR: SURGICAL ARTICLES AND METHODS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

REFERENCES

- ☒ The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.
- ☐ A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

RELATED CASES

- ☐ Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. A copy of the patent(s), together with a copy of the claims and drawings of the pending application(s) is attached along with PTO 1449.
- ☐ A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION

- ☐ Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- ☐ No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

- ☒ Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check or credit card payment is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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W. Todd Baker

Registration No. 45,265

Docket No. 250882US-25 CONT

Serial No. 10/675,816

Group Art Unit: 3736

STATEMENT OF RELEVANCY

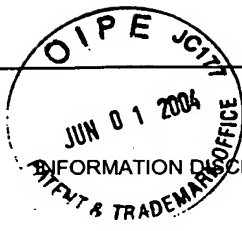
- Reference DE 42 20 283 C2 to Fuhrman is a German document. Figures 1 and 2 appear to show a surgical needle 1. Note elements 5 and 6. An informal English translation is enclosed,
- Reference SU 1342486 appears to be in Russian. This document was cited in another application owned by the assignee of the present invention,
- Reference SU 122547 also appears to be in Russian. This document seems to disclose a medical implantation device.

The following documents are included for the examiner's information. It is not clear to the undersigned whether these documents constitute prior art to the present invention. For now, Applicants request that the examiner consider these documents. Applicants reserve the right to argue these are not prior art.

1. A document entitled, "Access Instrument SystemTM with AlloSlingTM Fascia" (5 pages with two pages of Instructions for Use).
2. Document with heading: "Introducing: AlloSlingTM Fascia The Natural Choice for Suburethral Sling Procedures", Advertisement from UroMed Corporation (1 page).
3. AlloSource product literature (11 pages).
4. Staskin et al., A Comparison of Tensile Strength among Three Preparations of Irradiated and Non-Irradiated Human Fascia Lata Allografts (2 pages).
5. UroMed AccessTM Instrument System for the Sub-urethral Sling Procedure Catalog Number 120235, Directions for Use (4 pages).

6. We note that the published claims in U.S. Publication No. 2002/0188169 and U.S. Publication No. 2002/0077525 are identical. However, Applicants also enclose a preliminary amendment filed in U.S. Patent Application No. 10/191,572 on or about July 9, 2002.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE				Atty. Docket No.: 250882US 25 CONT (AMS-029B)		Serial No.: 10/675,816			
				Applicant(s): Neisz et al.					
				Filing Date: September 30, 2003				Group No. 3736	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS									
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	SubClass	Filing Date if Appropriate		
		2,738,790	03/20/56	Todt et al.					
		3,124,136	03/10/64	Usher					
		3,182,662	05/11/65	Shirodkar					
		3,311,110	03/28/67	Singerman et al.					
		3,384,073	05/21/68	Van Winkle, Jr.					
		3,472,232	10/14/69	Earl					
		3,580,313	05/25/71	McKnight					
		3,763,860	10/09/73	Clarke					
		3,789,828	02/05/74	Schulte					
		3,858,783	01/07/75	Kapitanov et al.					
		3,924,633	12/09/75	Cook et al.					
		3,995,619	12/07/76	Glatzer					
		4,019,499	04/26/77	Fitzgerald					
		4,037,603	07/26/77	Wendorff					
		4,128,100	12/05/78	Wendorff					
		4,172,458	10/30/79	Pereyra					
		4,235,238	11/25/80	Ogiu et al.					
		4,246,660	01/27/81	Wevers					
		4,441,497	04/10/84	Paudler					
		4,509,516	04/09/85	Richmond					
		4,632,100	12/30/86	Somers et al.					
		4,775,380	10/04/88	Seedhom et al.					
		4,857,041	08/15/89	Annis et al.					
		4,865,031	09/12/89	O'Keefe					
		4,920,986	05/01/90	Biswas					
		4,932,962	06/12/90	Yoon et al.					
		4,938,760	07/03/90	Burton et al.					
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		5,007,894	04/16/91	Enhorning					
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		5,053,043	10/01/91	Gottesman et al.					
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		5,256,133	10/26/93	Spitz					
		5,281,237	01/25/94	Gimpelson					
		5,328,077	07/12/94	Lou					
		5,337,736	08/16/94	Reddy					
		5,362,294	11/08/94	Seitzinger					
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		5,413,598	05/09/95	Moreland					
		5,439,467	08/08/95	Benderev et al.					
EXAMINER					Date Considered				
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citations in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p> <p>Based on Form PTO-FB-A820 (also form PTO-1449)</p> <p>Patent and Trademark Office. U.S. Department of Commerce</p>									

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				Applicant(s): Neisz et al.			
				Filing Date: September 30, 2003		Group No. 3736	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	SubClass	Filing Date if Appropriate
		5,520,700	05/28/96	Beyar et al.			
		5,544,664	08/13/96	Benderev et al.			
		5,562,689	10/08/96	Green et al.			
		5,571,139	11/05/96	Jenkins, Jr.			
		5,591,163	01/07/97	Thompson			
		5,611,515	03/18/97	Benderev et al.			
		5,628,756	05/13/97	Barker, Jr. et al.			
		5,633,286	05/27/97	Chen			
		5,669,935	09/23/97	Rosenman et al.			
		5,683,349	11/04/97	Makower et al.			
		5,807,403	09/15/98	Beyar et al.			
		5,836,314	11/17/98	Benderev et al.			
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		5,935,122	08/10/99	Fourkas et al.			
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		5,997,554	12/07/99	Thompson			
		6,010,447	01/04/00	Kardjian			
		6,030,393	02/29/00	Corlew			
		6,031,148	02/29/00	Hayes et al.			
		6,042,534	03/28/00	Gellman et al.			
		6,042,536	03/28/00	Tihon et al.			
		6,050,937	04/18/00	Benderev			
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		6,068,591	05/30/00	Bruckner et al.			
		6,071,290	06/06/00	Compton			
		6,106,545	08/22/00	Egan			
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		6,302,840	10/16/01	Benderev			
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		6,494,906	12/17/02	Owens			
		6,502,578	01/07/03	Raz et al.			
EXAMINER					Date Considered		
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citations in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p> <p>Based on Form PTO-FB-A820 (also form PTO-1449)</p> <p>Patent and Trademark Office. U.S. Department of Commerce</p>							

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		Filing Date: September 30, 2003			Group No. 3736		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	SubClass	Filing Date if Appropriate
		6,530,943	03/11/03	Hoepffner et al.			
		6,575,897	06/10/03	Ory et al.			
		6,582,443	06/24/03	Cabak et al.			
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		2002/0147382 A1	10/10/02	Neisz et al.			
		2002/0151909 A1	10/17/02	Gellman et al.			
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		2003/0004581 A1	01/02/03	Rousseau			
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		2003/0036676 A1	02/20/03	Scetbon			
		2003/0045774 A1	03/06/03	Staskin et al.			
		2003/0050530 A1	03/12/03	Neisz et al.			
		2003/0065246 A1	04/03/03	Inman et al.			
		2003/0114866 A1	06/19/03	Ulmsten et al.			
		2003/0130670 A1	07/10/03	Anderson et al.			
		2003/0149440 A1	08/07/03	Kammerer et al.			
		2003/0171644 A1	09/11/03	Anderson et al.			
		2003/0176762 A1	09/18/03	Kammerer			
237		60/356,697	02/14/02	Kammerer			
EXAMINER					Date Considered		
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citations in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Based on Form PTO-FB-A820 (also form PTO-1449) Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce							

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				Applicant(s): Neisz et al.			
				Filing Date: September 30, 2003		Group No. 3736	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	SubClass	Translation
							Yes No
	1	1299162	04/17/98	IT			X
	2	DE 2305815	02/01/73	Germany			
	3	DE 4220283 C2	05/19/94	Germany			X
	4	EP 0 470 308 A1	02/12/92	EP			X
	5	EP 0 643 945 A2	07/06/94	EP			X
	6	EP 0 650 703 A1	06/24/94	EP			X
	7	EP 1 060 714 A3	09/10/02	EP			
	8	EP 1 093 758 A1	04/25/01	EP			X
	9	SU 1225547 A1	04/01/86	Russia			
	10	SU 1342486 A	10/07/87	Russia			
	11	WO 93/17635 A1	09/16/93	WIPO			
	12	WO 93/19678 A2	10/14/93	WIPO			
	13	WO 98/19606 A1	05/14/98	WIPO			
	14	WO 98/35616 A1	08/20/98	WIPO			
	15	WO 98/35632 A1	08/20/98	WIPO			
	16	WO 99/016381 A1	04/08/99	WIPO			
	17	WO 99/52450 A1	10/21/99	WIPO			
	18	WO 00/13601 A1	03/16/00	WIPO			
	19	WO 00/18319 A1	04/06/00	WIPO			
	20	WO 00/027304 A1	05/18/00	WIPO			
	21	WO 00/57812 A1	10/05/00	WIPO			
	22	WO 00/64370 A1	11/02/00	WIPO			
	23	WO 00/74594 A1	12/14/00	WIPO			
	24	WO 00/74613 A1	12/14/00	WIPO			
	25	WO 00/74633 A2	12/14/00	WIPO			
	26	WO 01/06951 A1	02/01/01	WIPO			
	27	WO 01/26581 A1	04/19/01	WIPO			
	28	WO 01/39670 A1	06/07/01	WIPO			
	29	WO 01/45589 A1	06/28/01	WIPO			
	30	WO 01/56499 A1	08/09/01	WIPO			
	31	WO 02/28312 A1	04/11/02	WIPO			
	32	WO 02/32284 A2	04/25/02	WIPO			
	33	WO 02/34124 A2	05/02/02	WIPO			
	34	WO 02/38079 A2	05/16/02	WIPO			
	35	WO 02/39890 A2	05/23/02	WIPO			
	36	WO 02/071953 A2	09/19/02	WIPO			
	37	WO 02/078552 A1	10/10/02	WIPO			
	38	WO 03/017848 A1	03/06/03	WIPO			
	39	WO 03/028585 A2	04/10/03	WIPO			
	40	WO 03/037215 A2	05/08/03	WIPO			
	41	WO 03/041613 A1	05/22/03	WIPO			
	42	WO 03/047435 A1	06/12/03	WIPO			
	43	WO 04/016180 A2	02/26/04	WIPO			
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		Applicant(s): Neisz et al.	
		Filing Date: September 30, 2003	Group No. 3736
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Authors, Title, Date, Pertinent Papers, etc.)			
	44		Albert H. Aldridge, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., TRANSPLANTATION OF FASCIA FOR RELIEF OF URINARY STRESS INCONTINENCE, American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, V. 44, pp. 398-411, (1948)
	45		Amundsen, Cindy L. et al., ANATOMICAL CORRECTION OF VAGINAL VAULT PROLAPSE BY UTEROSACRAL LIGAMENT FIXATION IN WOMEN WHO ALSO REQUIRE A PUBOVAGINAL SLING, The Journal of Urology, Vol. 169, pp. 1770-1774, (May 2003).
	46		Araki, Tohru et al., THE LOOP-LOOSENING PROCEDURE FOR URINATION DIFFICULTIES AFTER STAMEY SUSPENSION OF THE VESICAL NECK, The Journal of Urology, Vol. 144, pp. 319-323 (August 1990)
	47		Asmussen, M. et al., SIMULTANEOUS URETHRO-CYSTOMETRY WITH A NEW TECHNIQUE, Scand J Urol Nephrol 10, page 7-11 (1976).
	48		Beck, Peter R. et al., Treatment of Urinary Stress Incontinence With Anterior Colporrhaphy, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Vol 59 (No. 3), pp. 269-74 (Mar. 1982)
	49		Benderev, Theodore V., MD, A Modified Percutaneous Outpatient Bladder Neck Suspension System, Journal of Urology, Vol. 152, pp. 2316-20 (Dec. 1994)
	50		Benderev, Theodore V., MD, Anchor Fixation and Other Modifications of Endoscopic Bladder Neck Suspension, Urology, Vol 40, No. 5, pp. 409-18 (Nov. 1992)
	51		Bergman, Arie et al., THREE SURGICAL PROCEDURES FOR GENUINE STRESS INCONTINENCE: FIVE-YEAR FOLLOW-UP OF A PROSPECTIVE RANDOMIZED STUDY, Am J Obstet Gynecol, Vol 173 No 1, pages 66-71 (July 1995)
	52		Blaivas, Jerry et al., PUBOVAGINAL FASCIAL SLING FOR THE TREATMENT OF COMPLICATED STRESS URINARY INCONTINENCE, The Journal of Urology, Vol. 145, pages 1214-1218 (June 1991)
	53		Blaivas, Jerry et al., TYPE III STRESS URINARY INCONTINENCE: IMPORTANCE OF PROPER DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT, Surgical Forum, pages 473-475, (1984).
	54		Blavis, Jerry, COMMENTARY: PUBOVAGINAL SLING PROCEDURE, Experience with Pubovaginal Slings, pages 93-101 (1990)
	55		Boyles, Sarah Hamilton et al., PROCEDURES FOR URINARY INCONTINENCE IN THE UNITED STATES, 1979-1997, Am J Obstet Gynecol, Vol. 189, n. 1, pp. 70-75 (July 2003).
	56		Bryans, Fred E., MARLEX GAUZE HAMMOCK SLING OPERATION WITH COOPER'S LIGAMENT ATTACHMENT IN THE MANAGEMENT OF RECURRENT URINARY STRESS INCONTINENCE, American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Vol. 133, pp. 292-294 (February 1979)
	57		Burch, John C., URETHROVAGINAL FIXATION TO COOPER'S LIGAMENT FOR CORRECTION OF STRESS INCONTINENCE, CYSTOCELE, AND PROLAPSE, Am. J. Obst. & Gyn, Vol. 31, pp. 281-290 (1961)
	58		Cervigni, Mauro et al., THE USE OF SYNTHETICS IN THE TREATMENT OF PELVIC ORGAN PROLAPSE, Voiding Dysfunction and Female Urology, Vol. 11, pp 429-435 (2001).
	59		Choe, Jong M. et al., GORE-TEX PATCH SLING: 7 YEARS LATER, Urology, Vol. 54, pp. 641-646 (1999)
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